

Nevada Indian Commission
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV
Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting
October 15, 2013

Present: Theresa Rowe, Education Manager, Head Start, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Sherry Ely-Mendes, Chairperson, Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee and Children's Cabinet; Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Lori Lotts, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Stephanie Wyatt, Nevada Early Intervention Services; San San Tin, Education Director, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Zannetta Hanks, Social Worker, Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe; Karen Shaw, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

- I. Invocation
 - a. The invocation was given by Sherry Ely-Mendes.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Sherry E. called the meeting to order at 1:11pm. It was noted that a quorum was not present and action could not be taken on the agenda items requiring action. Sherry E. asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- III. Initial Public Comment
 - a. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.
- IV. For Possible Action: Approval of August 20, 2013 Meeting Minutes
 - a. Action was not taken as no quorum was present. The item was moved to the next meeting.
- V. For Possible Action: Possible Approval of Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) Appointment of Representative Forms
 - a. Action was not taken as no quorum was present. The item was moved to the next meeting.
- VI. For Possible Action: Update on Tribal Early Childhood Public Awareness Video
 - a. Sherry R. reported that the Committee has been working on this for quite some time. The First Lady has been scheduled for tomorrow, October 16, 2013 to film the last segment of the video, along with her daughter Marissa. Lori and Sherry R. will be there tomorrow to make sure the First Lady is comfortable and filming goes smoothly. Editing of all segments is scheduled for Oct. 23-25 and the Commission should receive the first edited version shortly after for review.
- VII. For Possible Action: Update on Results of Needs Assessment Survey Sent to Tribal Childcare Facilities and Nevada Tribes
 - a. Sherry R. reported that there were eleven that have completed the survey; mostly the child care centers (8 of 11). This is up from the three that were reported at the last

meeting. Most all trainings listed on the survey, were picked by all groups. The top trainings requested included: Positive Interactions and Guidance; Family and Community Relationships; Health, Safety and Nutrition; and Leadership and Professional Development.

- i. Stephanie asked Sherry R. to send a summary of the results out by email.
- ii. Sherry E. was happy to see eleven surveys come back so the committee can see their needs and not try to blindly support what they need. She commented that the results were promising.

VIII. For Possible Action: Update on Tribal Child Care Licensing Template

- a. Sherry E. stated that earlier in the year the group had talked about the upcoming Silver State Stars Program that is starting in the State and how this group could participate. It is a boost to all of the facilities to help mentor them. The program will be piloted at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) with San San's program. The TECAC thought it would be nice to create a licensing template to be more of a guide to tribes to help them upgrade and meet minimal quality licensing standards. Sherry E. created a starter template/outline from the minimal quality standards used by Indian Health Services (IHS) and from language used by Eckers and the environmental rating scales, to get a basic standard of what this should look like for native childcare. The TECAC wants to create a document that educates people that run the childcare centers. It should be a guide and veer away from it being regulatory, as that should be up to each tribe. This should be a tool that helps those in charge recognize where improvement is needed and where things are going well. The goal is this should be a sellable product that helps improve school readiness, decreases drop-outs and provides for well-adjusted students. Those members who are interested in getting involved with the development of this template should contact Sherry E.
 - i. San San stated that it is a good format and it is an easy way for tribal childcare centers to see how "up to par" they are compared to non-tribal centers.
 - ii. Sherry R. stated it is important to let the tribes know that this is not a licensing document, but guidelines to help improve their facilities. A possible name change of the template to Tribal Childcare Minimal Quality Childcare Standards was discussed.
 - iii. Karen stated she has been attending child care training for childcare workers in Las Vegas and the training will also be offered in the North. They are looking for signs of neural disabilities. They are trying to get to the rural communities and train on the importance of early detection and are hoping to get to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and possibly RSIC in the spring.

IX. For Possible Action: Discussion on Planning for the 2014 Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit - TECAC Track

- a. Sherry E. reported that the TECAC was once again granted a track during this year's Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit for training and are now on the agenda. The TECAC wanted to use the survey from the centers to get ideas for the four trainings. Ideas for the tracks include: 1 – "Positive Interaction and Guidance" and

Theresa Rowe has graciously taken on this track and will use the Positive Behavior Support model for this training; 2 - “Family and Community Relationships” and the group is looking for an instructor; 3 – “Health, Safety & Nutrition” which is a big dilemma with Obesity and Diabetes; and lastly 4 – “Leadership and Professional Development.” Sherry E. was thinking about getting Nevada Registry involved with doing some leadership and professional development training with this last track. Sherry E. will call Cindy Johnson to see if she can be involved.

- i. Sherry E. suggested that Karen contact Fredina about putting the Nevada Land Program on the agenda as all educators will be there; it would be a great way to help get the word out that they are there and available. Karen said that with their Milestone book they are working with the State now, but she will contact Fredina.
- ii. According to Stephanie, NEIS did a training last year and would like to participate again this year. Sherry E. thinks that a presentation outside of early childhood would be good since all educators will be there. Sherry R. mentioned that the TECAC could show the early childhood education video to stress the importance of early childhood education. Sherry R. would like to see the focus of the Summit be early childhood education. Sherry R. will email Fredina to let her know the TECAC met on the TECAC track and that NEIS would also like to participate.

X. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- a. Stephanie stated that she would forward information on the EchoSee Grant that UNR has received to help students seeking their Masters in Early Childhood Special Education. She also mentioned that during Native American Heritage Month (November), that she and her husband are helping UNR coordinate four N7 events; two basketball games (male and female), a volleyball game and a football game. They are also assisting in getting folks to attend these games. The basketball teams purchased special uniforms for the occasion. Stephanie explained that N7 is inspired by Native American wisdom of the Seven Generations. The “N” can mean whatever you want, Nike, Native, etc. and the 7 represents the 7 generations, you, the three before you and the three after you. Sherry R. mentioned that she has the flyer and will e-mail it out to help get the word out about the event.
- b. Sherry R. commented that the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction is Saturday, November 2, 2013, 5-8 pm. Proceeds go to the establishment of the Stewart Indian Cultural Center. Anyone can go to www.stewartindianschool.com for more information or to purchase tickets. This event gives the Nevada Indian Commission a chance to recognize people who are doing some great things for the Native communities in Nevada.

XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. All action items will be moved to next meeting. Other suggestions for agenda items included a report on finalization of the early childhood education video and an update on the tribal childcare licensing template

- b. Any additional agenda items can be sent to Sherry R.
- XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meeting
 - a. The next meeting was scheduled for November 19, 2013 from 1-3pm at the Nevada Indian Commission.
- XIII. Final Public Comments
 - a. There were no final public comments made at the meeting.
- XIV. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.